



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

To: Mayor and Members of Council

Prepared by: Peter Marra, P.Eng. – Director of Public Works

Department: Public Works

Date of Report: July 6, 2020

Report Number: PW-15-20

Subject: Disputed Road Drainage Concerns – 6610 to 6770 Disputed Rd

Recommendation

That the report of the Director of Public Works dated July 6, 2020 (PW-15-20) regarding Disputed Road Drainage concern BE RECEIVED; and

That Council CONCUR that the original offer to infill the ditch on Disputed remain in place; and

That Council APPROVE implementing the requirements under the new dilapidate culvert policy to the 6 affected properties on Disputed Road for a 120 day approval deadline, including payments options.

Report

This report is being prepared in response to a Council question and to provide Council a summary of what has occurred on Disputed Road, with respect to drainage repairs in the area around municipal numbers 6610 to 6770 Disputed Road.

The specific question from Council regarding this matter was brought forward at the January 28, 2020 and has been responded to with two separate reports. This one and the second report relating to a new dilapidated culvert policy.

Background

In 2018, there were about 5 properties on Disputed Road that were experiencing overland flooding from the adjacent farm field and the issue seem to be arising as a result of the roadside ditch along Disputed Road. Flooding was occurring only during large rainfall events, while the smaller rainfall events were not causing any issues.

The Town conducted an inspection of the roadside ditch in question and portions of this ditch were an open ditch and also a closed ditch (ditch infill). The closed section of ditch was draining, albeit, at a greatly reduced rate and the culverts that were in place were dilapidated and in need of replacement.

The unfortunate part was the 5 properties experiencing flooding were a result of a dilapidated culverts downstream of them crossing another 6 separate properties.

While flooding occurred, the Town on an interim basis was able to mobilize staff every time it rained to provide pumping in order to keep up with the large rainfall events. In most cases, this occurred afterhours and on the weekends and Town staff responded accordingly after hours.

The Town tried to initiated repairs as per the then current dilapidated culvert policy. There were numerous attempts that the Town reached out to all affected property owners to implement repairs. Unfortunately, almost all the residents, including the ones who were flooding, did not want to participate.

The events that occurred on Disputed Road through 2019 was the trigger spurring the Council question about the dilapidated culvert policy and the request to revisit the policy.

As noted earlier, the Council question regarding this matter was brought forward at the January 28, 2020 Council meeting. Administration was in the process of completing and developing the new policy in February 2020, then the COVID-19 pandemic occurred which resulted in efforts placed elsewhere.

In addition, in approximately late March or early April 2020, another flooding event occurred. The Town again dispatched staff to attend to the flooding.

In an effort to alleviate the flooding and the constant strain on Town staff, a decision was made to proceed with removing the dilapidated culvert and reinstating the open ditch.

Although not finalized or approved, administration did their best efforts in trying to keep to what would be coming forward in a new policy, which was drafted at that time. The ideal situation would've been to wait until the new policy was approved and then try again to replace these culverts, thus putting these residents under the requirements of the new dilapidated culvert policy. But the some 12 to 14 month efforts prior to get voluntary cooperation was wearisome on those properties who kept flooding.

Now the concerns have transferred from those who were flooding to those who now have an open ditch in front of their house.

We have provided notice to these residents affected about what would be occurring and the following summarized the correspondence:

1. Town would be removing the old culvert piping and installing a new culvert pipe only under the driveway in keeping their existing driveway the same width as existing;
2. The Town would pay all cost to do this work, except for the driveway final hard surface restoration;
3. If they wanted to keep the open ditch there is no costs to them;
4. The option for these residents to participate and have the Town come back later on and infill the remainder of the ditch was available to them provided that they buy the culvert pipe and pay the Town for the already installed driveway culvert;
5. A timeline on a response to this option was provided.

To date, we have only had two (2) of the property owners express interest in having the Town infill the remainder of the ditch. Unfortunately, one doesn't want to pay anything, and the other does not want to pay for the driveway portion. It should be noted that these properties have an approximate frontage of about 30m (100'). Therefore, the larger lot size relates to an increase in culvert costs, relative to typical circumstances.

The recommendation is that Council concur that the original offered services continue to be made to these two residents affected, in keeping closely with the new dilapidated culvert policy.

In addition, the recommendation is that council approve extending the deadline to 120 days for a response, and that the Town offer these two residents the payments options, and further that we extend this same offer to the other four (4) affected properties one last time.

These recommendations are being brought forward so that the Town/Council can demonstrate fairness and consistency with situations like this, with what has occurred in the past and what is proposed to continue into the future.

Consultations

The two property owners that expressed the desire to infill the ditch have been notified of this report.

Financial Implications

The services that the Town provides under this policy are greatly subsidized. In this particular case, the actual costs are approximately 4 to 5 times the amount that the property owner is being requested to pay.

The cost of the labor and equipment are not recovered. The cost to removing the old culvert and the stone bedding and backfill for the new culvert are not covered. Effort to work around the other utilities are not covered. Traffic control falls to the Town to pick-up the cost.

However, as noted, the Town has been carrying out work in this manner for a couple of decades and the number of actual culverts being replaced in any given year are currently low.

Prepared By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Marra', with a stylized, cursive script.

Peter Marra. P.Eng. – Director of Public Works

Link to Strategic Goals

	Enhancing organizational excellence
yes	Sustain strong public services and infrastructure
yes	Strengthen the community's engagement with the Town
	Grow and diversify the local economy
yes	Build on our high-quality of life

Communications

yes	Not applicable
	Website
	Social Media
	News Release
	Local Newspaper
	Bids & Tenders
	Notification pursuant to the Planning Act

Notifications

Name	Address	Email
Carmela & Tony Diponti		
Gary Cossarini		

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	PW-15-20 Disputed Road Drainage Ditch_infilling.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 6, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Chief Administrative Officer

Joe Milicia